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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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Soviets on the Offensive Against China in
Asia and the International Communist Movement

1 2 Soviet propagandists are playing up the need for an Asian security conference similar to the recently concluded European one. The latest issues of *New Times* and *Izvestiya* on August 27 carry articles which stress the applicability to Asia of the principles agreed to at the Helsinki summit.

1 2 Not surprisingly, the principle the Soviets deem most relevant for Asia is the one on the inviolability of frontiers. The *Izvestiya* article attacks Maoists and "revanchists" in Japan for favoring territorial revision, and claims that most Asian countries, including India, favor resolving frontier disputes by peaceful means.

1 3 *Izvestiya* seems to imply that the Middle East should be included in the area to be covered by any Asian security arrangement. This is the first time the Soviets have publicly suggested this, although Mikhail Kapitsa, chief of the Foreign Ministry's First Asian Division, said much the same thing privately on August 19. This addition of the Middle East only underlines the propagandistic purpose of the Soviet Asian security concept. The Soviets are under no illusions about the short-term prospects for their proposals, and Kapitsa himself was forced to admit to a Western diplomat that it was an idea whose time was still several years away.

2 The renewed emphasis on Asian collective security is not only a logical follow-on to the European security conference, but it also appears to be part of a new propaganda campaign against China. For example, the latest issue of the Soviets' leading theoretical journal, *Kommunist*, carries a lengthy editorial article on China.

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2 The text of the article is not yet available, but some of its main points, such as the admonition against neutral or conciliatory attitudes toward China, are already being echoed by Moscow's stalwarts in East Europe. (See following item.) One purpose of the *Kommunist* article, and the broader Soviet campaign, is to establish a hard line on China for the benefit of wayward thinkers such as the Romanians and the Yugoslavs. In claiming that anti-Sovietism is becoming institutionalized in China, Moscow may be arguing against the possibility of a softer line out of Peking after Mao dies.

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East German and Czechoslovak Media Assail China

Two of Moscow's most loyal allies have leveled propaganda broadsides at China.

1 2 The East German party daily on August 25 carried a scathing anti-Maoist article that asserted that the "reactionary, aggressive circles of imperialism" have the Maoist leadership on their side. Peking was soundly chastized for its "massive and vociferously promoted preparations for war, open establishment of blocs with the reactionary forces of imperialism against the Soviet Union...and intensification of Maoist great-power chauvinism."

2 Peking was also accused of attempting to establish Maoism as an international current, to weaken the international solidarity of the pro-Moscow parties, and to make territorial claims against the USSR.

2 The Czechoslovaks got into the act the next day, when *Bratislava Pravda* carried two anti-Maoist articles. One charged the Chinese leadership with playing an "extraordinarily harmful role" in the current international situation and of aligning its foreign policy with "the most reactionary imperialist forces and states." The second charged that China does not take the results of CSCE seriously and advocates a buildup of American forces in Europe.

1 2 3 These attacks, obviously inspired by Moscow, may be intended to start the ball rolling for a show of solidarity against China at the preparatory session for the conference of European communist parties in East Berlin next month. *Bratislava Pravda* hinted as much, stating "the European communist parties are arduously analyzing the new elements of the situation, particularly in connection with the preparation of the conference of European communist parties...."

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